

AI *02/07/02*
 cont'd
 4. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~the mixture to be treated~~ ^{said} comprises $\geq 95\%$ by weight of (meth)acrylic acid.

5. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, ~~which is~~ ^{further comprises of at least one of} absorption ~~process~~ ^{processes}.

6. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are either all methyl or all ethyl.

7. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein X is H.

8. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, which is carried out at from 100 to 200°C.

9. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, which is carried out at ≤ 100 mbar.

12. (Amended) A mixture as claimed in claim 10, wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 are either all methyl or all ethyl.